

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00498 140106Z

20

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2702

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOG UN AG

SUBJ: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION

1. ATEND OF WORKING DAY FEB 13, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION IN MINDS OF UN MEMBERSHIP AS TO LIKELY TIMING OF GA SPECIAL SESSION. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SUBSTANTIVE MEETING SHOULD NOT BEGIN PRIOR TO MID-MARCH AT EARLIEST. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO AGREEMENT, EVEN AMONG NON-ALIGNED, AS TO PREFERRED DATE AND NO READY MECHANISM FOR ENFORCING DECISION ON DATE IF ONE WERE MADE. AS REPORTED, SYG IS REQUIRED UNDER GA RULES OF PROCEDURE TO CONVENE MEETING WITHIN 15 DAYS FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF 68TH AFFIRMATIVE REPLY TO HIS POLLING LETTER OF JAN 21. IN ORGANIZATION OF 135 MEMBERS, IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR NON-ALIGNED LEADERSHIP TO CONTROL TIMING OF DELIVERY OF 68TH LETTER THAT WOULD TRIGGER CONVENING ACTION.

2. AS OF 3:00 P.M. FEB 13, 57 AFFIRMATIVE LETTERS AND NO NEGATIVES OR ABSTENTIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY SECRETARIAT. IT OBVIOUSLY BECAME POSSIBLE THAT 13 ADDITIONAL YESES" WOULD BE RECEIVED IN AFTERNOON OR EARLY FEB 14. ONE STORY HAS IT THAT AFTER NON-ALIGNED LEADERSHIP HAD DECIDED TO URGE THEIR GROUP TO WITHDRAW DELIVERY OF "YES" LETTERS UNTIL SIGNAL GIVEN AND NAMED IRANIAN PERMREP HOVEYDA (CHAIRMAN OF 77) TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00498 140106Z

INFORM GROUP, HOVEYDA HIMSELF SCURRIED TO SECRETARIAT TO

WITHDRAW HIS OWN LETTER OF CONCURRENCE. ALTHOUGH IRAN IS IN FACT STILL CARRIED AS "YES" ON SECRETARIAT'S SCOREBOARD AND STROY THUS APPEARS TO BE APOCRYPHAL, IT IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF DISORGANIZATION PREVAILING.

3. WELL-PLACED SECRETARIAT SOURCE INFORMS US THAT BENITES, WHO AS YET HAS NO OFFICIAL STANDING RE SPECIAL SESSION BUT IS EXPECTED TO BE ELECTED PRESIDENT, HAS BEEN PERSUADED BY NON-ALIGNED TO ATTEMPT TO CONTROL SCHEDULING OF OPENING DATE. WE UNDERSTAND BENITES IS DISPOSED TO BEGIN SHORTLY TO CONSULT WITH VARIOUS REGIONAL GROUPS OSTENSIBLY FOR PURPOSE OF DEALING WITH OUTSTANDING 28TH GA BUSINESS, SUCH AS NAMING WORKING GROUPS, ETC. AS BY-PRODUCT OF THESE CONSULTATIONS, BENITES WOULD EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT HIS CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS REVEALED CONSENSUS OF GA MEMBERSHIP (WHO MASTERS OF THEIR OWN PROCEDURES) IN FAVOR OF BEGINNING SPECIAL SESSION ON SOME PARTICULAR DATE (NOT AGREED AS OF THIS WRITING).

4. MOST OF ABOVE WAS LARGELY CONFIRMED BY BENITES WHEN AMB SCHAUFELLE CALLED ON HIM FEB 13 P.M. BENITES SAID HE HAD HEARD THREE POSSIBILITIES MENTIONED: (1) TOKEN MEETING FOLLOWED BY RECESS, (2) UNINTERRUPTED SESSION WITHIN 15 DAYS OF 68TH ACCEPTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES OF PROCEDURE, (3) AGREEMENT TO DELAY CONVENING SPECIAL SESSION UNTIL ALATER DATE SUCH AS MAY. SIMPLE MAJORITY OF MEMBERSHIP WOULD SUFFICE TO OBTAIN DELAY UNDER LAST OPTION. IF THERE IS A RECESS A WORKING GROUP COULD BE FORMED WHICH WOULD FUNCTION DURING RECESS TO DEFINE SESSION'S AGENDA MORE CLOSELY.

5. BENITES INDEED ASSUMES HE WILL BE ELECTED PRESIDENT AND ALL OTHER OFFICERS OF 28TH GA WILL SERVE AGAIN. THIS HE SAYS IS A MATTER OF PRECEDENT BECAUSE THERE IS NO PROVISION IN RULES OF PROCEDURE. THERE WOULD BE A GENERAL COMITE BUT PROBABLY NOT IN THE SAME SENSE AS FOR A REGULAR SESSION SINCE MOST OF THE REGULAR COMITE WOULD NOT FUNCTION. COMPOSITION OF CREDENTIALS COMITE WOULD REMAIN THE SAME AND BENITES ANTICIPATES NO CREDENTIALS CHALLENGES. HE SAID RULINGS HE MADE AT 28TH GA WOULD STAND UNLESS REVOKED BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY, AND AFRICANS HAVE THEIR SIGHTS ON 29TH GA WHEN THEY CONFIDENTLY EXPECT AN AFRICAN GA PRESIDENT WILL MAKE DIFFERENT RULINGS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00498 140106Z

6. BENITES DWELT ON WHAT HE SAW AS THREE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION. ONE WOULD BE A RESOLUTION, ANOTHER WOULD BE A DECLARATION (WHICH MIGHT HAVE MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT), OR THE SESSION MIGHT CALL FOR CONVOCAION OF A SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY OR SOME OTHER SUBJECT. BENITES WAS SURE IN ANY CASE QUESTION OF A UN ENERGY CONFERENCE WOULD COME UP AT SPECIAL SESSION.

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